

We had some excellent sailing in April and May 2013; June not quite as good

The members who were able to have a sail on Happy Return really enjoyed their time aboard. Firstly, there have been two trips to Scilly the first over the May Day weekend skippered by John Vanderhoff, he reported that they had some excellent sailing and weather and watched some of the gig racing. The second at the Spring Bank Holiday weekend skippered by Mark Mitchell. On the second trip Mark had to delay the Friday late afternoon departure due to the weather conditions however as it improved Mark and crew set course for Scilly at 4.00am on Saturday. As they sailed out into the Bay they saw school after school of Dolphins early morning feeding, it must have been a wonderful sight and well worth the early start. There were light winds all the way to Lands End and at Lands End the wind dropped completely so it was on with the motor for the rest of the journey finally picking up a mooring buoy between Tresco and Bryher. In the afternoon the crew took the dinghy ashore to Tresco and walked around the Island finally ending up at the New Inn for some liquid refreshment and a meal. The next day, Sunday, they again took the dinghy ashore this time to Bryher and in lovely weather had a walk around the Island. Lunch on board, they then set course for St Mary's out past Hell Bay and back into the islands via Old Grimsby finally coming to anchor in Watermill Cove on the North East side of St Mary's. The weather forecast that evening was not good, warning of an approaching weather system. Rather than sit it out in the Islands it was decided by the crew to make a dash for Penzance ahead of the approaching system. Therefore it was up anchor at 1.00am and set sail for Penzance. What a dash it was, some five and a quarter hours later they arrived off Penzance at 6.30am having had some exhilarating sailing the whole way back. I think that has to be one of the fastest, if not the fastest passages. Happy Return has ever made to or from Scilly.

The sailing weather in June has not been so good. I had an evening sail on the 11th with a full crew, Mark again was skipper. It started to rain as soon as we cast off our mooring lines from within the Wet Dock and with a freshening wind we set sail to pass to the south of St Michael's Mount. Soon the shore line at Long Rock and Marazion was barely visible. So with the small fore lug set and Peter May at the helm we were quickly doing seven plus knots in a lumpy sea. Off St Michael's Mount we gybed round and headed off for Newlyn again easily making seven knots. Tea was brewed and enjoyed by all, not easy to make in the lumpy sea conditions. Soon we were under the lee of the land at Newlyn, we gybed again and headed back across the bay. By now the crew were becoming very wet as the rain had hardly eased so half way across the bay we gybed again and headed for the harbour finally mooring up on the North Arm. The crew wet, bedraggled but in the afterglow of having had a thoroughly enjoyable sail went their separate ways home, it doesn't always have to be a balmy summer evening to enjoy a sail around the bay!

Happy Return was due to sail up to Looe to take part in the biannual Looe Lugger Festival on the weekend of the 14 to 17 June however with very strong winds forecast for the whole weekend it was decided not to go. Sadly I understand the whole event had to be cancelled.

This last weekend was the Golowan Festival at Penzance Happy Return had a Bay sail on Saturday skippered by John Vanderhoff, he reported the three hour sail was enjoyed by the crew which in addition to older members we had two newly joined members, we very much hope they enjoyed their first sail on Happy Return and we will see them on board again soon. On Sunday we moored by the Ross Bridge in Penzance for Quay Day to meet and greet the general public as usual Happy Return created a lot of interest from the general public and I'm pleased to say that we recruited five new members hope to see them on board before too long.

July already, amazing how time flies! Perhaps you may think this is premature but the **Newlyn Fish Festival** is just around the corner, **Monday 26 August** as you will know this is our premier fund raising event. This is the major event to help fund the running costs of Happy Return. So if you are able to help in

anyway on the day please contact **John Tellam**. In addition to our very popular BBQ pilchard rolls we also have a cake stall which members kindly donate cakes for us to sell on to the the general public on the day. It's not all work, it can be a very enjoyable day for all the family. Even if you are only able to spare an hour to help it will be greatly appreciated. Please let John Tellam know if you can help.

Fair winds and tides.

Neil.